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Your Reference: P036087GB
Application No: GB0418247.3

The Patent Office
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23 August 2005

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Latest date for reply: **23 December 2005**

I enclose two copies of my examination report.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Yours faithfully

Dr Hazel Oliver
Examiner

***Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Applicant : CardsSafe Ltd

Examiner : Dr Hazel Oliver
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**Patents Act 1977
Examination Report under Section 18(3)**

Basis of the examination

1. In the examination of your application I have taken account of the pages 14-18 you filed with your agent's letter of 13 August 2004 to amend the application as it was printed by WIPO during the international phase.

Novelty

2. The invention as defined in claims 1, 4-8, 11-13 & 28 is not new because it has already been disclosed in the following document:

US 4341166 (CANTLEY); see figure 1.

Inventive step

3. The size of the compartments and the size of the cards safe are obvious variables. Thus defining the size of these obvious variables does not lead to a limiting feature. Accordingly, the size of the compartment in claim 1 provides no limiting effect on that claim. Similarly with the size of the cards safe in claim 9, incorporation of this feature into claim 1 would not confer an inventive step upon that claim.

Clarity

4. Claim 1 defines the invention in terms of a plurality of compartments for cards, and as comprising at least two boxes, and further that each box forms one of the compartments. Throughout the later claims, the terms box(es) and compartment(s) are used interchangeably. Similarly, both of the terms "customers" and "consumers" are used in claim 1. It is essential, that terminology is used consistently throughout the specification so that doubt is not cast on the scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the later claims, should refer to the boxes/compartments by a single term.

5. Furthermore, the description at lines 18-19 (pg.13) referring to boxes and compartments is inconsistent with the claimed invention and must be removed.

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[Examination Report contd.]

6. Please note that claim 23 contains a full stop, and further, that "frame sizes" appears to be an error for "frame sized".

Description

7. The description, especially the statements of the invention on pages 2-5, will require revision for consistency with any amendments made to the claims.

8. The wording "Additionally, the present invention provides the following inventions" (pg.6, 1.2) potentially casts doubt on the scope of the claimed invention and should be amended.

9. You may wish to note that paragraph 2 on page 9 contains a minor typographical error. Namely, figure 5 has been referred to twice, whereas it appears that one of them is intended to be a reference to figure 6.

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